

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

125

EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

OCI #0726/67
7 June 1968Eastern European Reaction to the Kennedy Assassination

East European press commentary continues to pound away at the "sick society" theme drawing parallels between other US assassinations, civil rights disorders and the Vietnam conflict. A Hungarian editorial says Senator Kennedy was killed because he knew too much, and the Polish ambassador to the US told an American diplomat that he believed, presumably in all seriousness, that Robert Kennedy had been a "marked man because he knew who killed his brother." Very little attention has been given to the assassin's Jordanian background except in Czechoslovakia where it was headlined in the main party daily Rude Pravo.

Official reaction has been more balanced and objective and probably reflects the genuine sorrow of Eastern Europe's populace. Telegrams of condolence have been sent to the US Senate from parliamentary leaders in Yugoslavia, Rumania and Czechoslovakia and the Kennedy family has received sympathetic expressions from the Foreign Ministries of Poland and Czechoslovakia.

25X1

Student Unrest Continues in Yugoslavia

Several university buildings remain occupied by Belgrade students while the regime works out possible concessions to the demonstrators. The two sides however, have apparently only reached a temporary stand-off.

Students continue to accuse unnamed political leaders in Belgrade of having been opposed to their grievances from the start and of having distorted their demands to the public. Some students apparently are further to the "left" than the regime. New posters have appeared denouncing "socialist princes", demanding the resignation of incompetent leaders, and opposing the "restoration of capitalism."

While the party has expressed willingness to meet "justified demands," it has taken a strong stance against what it labels "extremism". The public authorities in Belgrade deny they have made any arrests, but insist that they will take legal action against "hostile" individuals.

GROUP I

Excluded from automatic down-
grading and declassification**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

-2-

The Belgrade public prosecutor has asked that leaflets distributed by "persons unknown" (probably the students) be confiscated.

In an effort to prevent the unrest from spreading, the party is using its front organizations to endorse the students' justified demands, and denounce the demonstrations and riots. Support is coming however from students throughout Yugoslavia. On 5 June Zagreb students held a solidarity meeting with representatives from Belgrade University's student body. To date, no word on the unrest has come from President Tito.

25X1

Rumanian Party Delegation Visits Hungary

Led by party presidium member Bodnaras, a two-man delegation departed Bucharest for Budapest 5 June on a "visit of friendship."

This is the first Rumanian party delegation to visit Hungary since 29 February, when the Rumanians walked out of the preparatory meeting of Communist parties in Budapest. While in Hungary, Bodnara s, who is an ethnic Hungarian and a party relations trouble-shooter, will doubtlessly discuss improving Rumanian-Hungarian party ties. He also will discuss the Czechoslovak reformist regime, to which both Bucharest and Budapest have been sympathetic.

Bodnaras may also seek to draw out his hosts on the content of the renegotiated Hungarian-Czechoslovak friendship treaty which is slated for signature sometime after 13 June, when a government delegation from Prague arrives in Budapest. The Rumanians have yet to renew with the Hungarians a similar treaty which formally expired last February. Bucharest also has failed to renew its friendship treaties with Moscow and Sofia.

25X1

Czechoslovak Party Secretary Defends T.G. Masaryk

A marriage of communism with Masaryk's humanistic ideals is what the Dubcek regime has in mind, according to liberal party secretary Cisar.

We can find "partial inspiring elements" in Masaryk's approach to creating a modern democracy, Cisar told the

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

25X1

-3-

party central committee last week. He added however, that "only we communists" can give Masaryk's philosophy the proper slant toward realizing "the real liberation of man."

Even this qualified endorsement of the revered first president of the Czechoslovak republic is likely to arouse the ire of Soviet critics. The official Soviet press last month severely castigated Masaryk's record, and in terms which grievously offended the majority of Czechoslovaks. Presumably Cisar's speech is in the nature of an answer to such attacks, showing determination to continue the use of Masaryk's ideas on democracy, while bowing to Soviet demands for the party to retain its "leading role." In the meantime, the investigation of the younger Masaryk's alleged suicide in 1948 continues, with anti-Russian overtones.

25X1

25X1

Still No Yugoslav Ambassador to Bonn

The Yugoslavs have not yet named an ambassador to Bonn, despite the approach of West German Foreign Minister Willi Brandt's visit to Belgrade on 12 June. The two nations restored diplomatic relations last January. The delay in naming an ambassador probably reflects internal squabbling not only in the Yugoslav foreign office, but in the party over cadre questions and Belgrade's policy toward Western Europe. Several names have emerged from the Belgrade rumor mill, with Assistant Foreign Minister Radivoje Uvalic lately being the most frequently mentioned for the Bonn post.

25X1

Czechoslovak Emigration Restrictions Relaxed

The Czechoslovak Government will facilitate the emigration of any national who wishes to do so, according to a form notice being circulated by the Foreign Ministry.

The notice came to light in May after a Czechoslovak scholar in the US had applied for permission to extend his stay here. Initially the scholar received no response, but after several months he not only received permission to stay in the US but also a letter apologizing for the delay in answering his request. The notice accompanied the letter.

25X1

NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE DIVISION

25X1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~